

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 having been amended and Claims 8-13 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mead (U.S. Patent 3,737,849). However, Claim 3 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-052461, filed on February 28, 2003. Note that a Request for Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 was filed on November 26, 2003, and the Application Data Sheet lists the foreign priority information.

Amended specification, amended Claims 1-3, 5 and 6, and new Claims 8-13 are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Applicant therefore submits that no new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Claim 3 has been rewritten as new independent Claim 8 including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Claim 8 is believed to be allowable.

New dependent Claims 9-13 depend directly from Claim 8. Therefore, Claims 9-13 are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 1 is directed to a wiring arrangement for a vehicle exterior component. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 3, a wiring arrangement for a vehicle exterior component 5 includes two bolt-nut pairs 1A-1B and 2A-2B, electric parts 13, 14, 15 and 16, a signal converter circuit 6 and a reverse signal converter circuit 7. The electric

parts 13, 14, 15 and 16 are provided in the vehicle exterior component 5. The signal converter circuit 6 is provided in a vehicle body 4, and configured to convert operating signals to operate the electric parts 13, 14, 15 and 16 into respective frequency signals. The reverse signal converter circuit 7 is provided in the vehicle exterior component 5, and configured to restore the respective frequency signals transmitted from the signal converter circuit 6 into the operating signals. The signal converter circuit 6 and the reverse signal converter circuit 7 are connected via the bolt-nut pair 1A-1B. The signal converter circuit 6 transmits the operating signals to the reverse signal converter circuit 7 through the bolt-nut pair 1A-1B. The reverse signal converter circuit 7 transmits the operating signals to the electric parts 13, 14, 15 and 16.

According to the present invention recited in Claim 1, the signal converter circuit and the reverse signal converter circuit are connected via one of the plurality of bolt-nut pairs. Accordingly, the operating signals are securely transmitted to the electric parts through one of the plurality of bolt-nut pairs. As a result, defects in electric connectivity such as a break and short circuit, which could otherwise occur in a conventional wiring harness, can be prevented.

The Office Action asserts that Mead discloses a wiring arrangement for a vehicle exterior component fixed to a vehicle body by at least two bolt-nut pairs. However, Mead fails to disclose or even suggest that **the signal converter circuit and the reverse signal converter circuit are connected via a plurality of bolt-nut pairs**. Accordingly, Mead is not believed in any way to obviate the invention recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

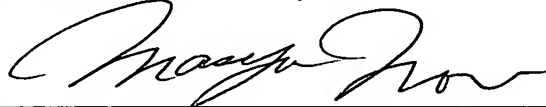
Substantially the same arguments as set forth above with regard to Claim 1 also apply to dependent Claims 2-7, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Accordingly, each of the dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

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Reply to Office Action of November 4, 2004

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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